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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,997	03/02/2004	Daniel J. Coster	APL1P290/P3186	4300
22434	7590	11/22/2006	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP			PAPE, ZACHARY	
P.O. BOX 70250			ART UNIT	
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			PAPER NUMBER	
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/791,997

Applicant(s)

COSTER ET AL.

Examiner

Zachary M. Pape

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 28-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 41-43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 40, 44 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 28-30, 32, 35, 45, 47, 48 and 56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 31, 33, 34, 36-39, 46 and 49-55 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/28/2006 has been entered.

Specification

2. The objection to the specification has been withdrawn in view of the amendment thereto.

Claim Objections

3. The objection to claim 52 regarding the "slidably retained" limitation has been withdrawn in view of the amendment thereto.

The objection to claim 52 regarding the, "slotted portions" limitation has been withdrawn in view of further consideration thereto.

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 5 recites, "decoupling the retention hook for the hook receivers" which appears to be incorrect.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The 112 rejection to claim 56 has been withdrawn in view of the remarks thereto (See the remarks dated 7/27/2006).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 28-29, 32, 35, 45, 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (US 6,932,447) in view of Lin et al. (US 6,824,174).

With respect to claim 1, Chen et al. teaches a computer comprising: a housing (10) having an access opening (Opposite 18, between 14 and 16 as illustrated in Fig 2); a removable access door (80) for tool-less placement in front of the access opening in order to prevent passage through the access opening; a quick release latching mechanism (50) configured to facilitate the mount and release of the access door to and from the housing (Column 4, Lines 14-32, 61-65), the quick release latching mechanism including a quick release handle (70). Chen et al. fails to teach that the quick release handle is pivotally coupled to the housing, and the rotation of the handle causing the removable access door to be mounted and released to and from the housing. Lin et al. teaches a pivoting handle (10) for removing a cover from a base. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the housing art at the time the invention was made to

combine the teachings of Lin et al. with the teachings of Chen et al. to provide an alternate equivalent means of operating the latching mechanism of Chen et al. (I.E. the latch of Lin et al. could replace the quick release handle of Chen et al. and provide the same function of moving the latching mechanism as disclosed by Chen. Also see Lin et al: Column 1, Lines 50-52).

With respect to claim 2, Chen et al. further teaches that the removable access door is secured to the housing without using fasteners (See Column 1, Lines 28-35).

With respect to claim 3, Chen et al. further teaches that the quick release latching mechanism includes a housing side locking mechanism (50, As illustrated in Fig 3) and a door side locking mechanism (82, as illustrated in Fig 1) that are cooperatively positioned so that when the removable access door is placed in front of the access opening, the locking mechanisms are capable of lockably engaging with each other thus securing the removable access door to the housing (As illustrated in Fig 6), the locking mechanisms engaging and disengaging one another via the rotation of the quick release handle (See Column 4, Lines 61-65 where the housing locking mechanisms could be operated by rotating the equivalent handle of Lin et al. to move the latching mechanism up and down such that the access door and housing engage and disengage as desired).

With respect to claim 4, Chen et al. in view of Lin et al. teaches the limitations of claim 1 above but fails to teach that the quick release latching mechanism (50) includes a plurality of retention hooks located on the housing that mate with a plurality of hook receivers located on the removable access door, the retention hooks being configured

to engage the hook receivers in order to hold the removable access door in front of the opening. Rather, Chen et al. teaches the parts in reverse, that is, that the quick release latching mechanism (50) includes a plurality of hook receivers (52) and the removable access door includes a plurality of retention hooks (83) which mate with each other to hold the removable access door in front of the opening (See Column 4, Lines 13-33; and Lines 61-65). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reverse the retention hooks and hook receivers onto the latching mechanism and removable access door respectively since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167. Reversing the retention hooks and hook receivers onto the latching mechanism and removable access door respectively is an alternate equivalent means of attaching two pieces of material (Similar to reversing the hook and loop construction of Velcro, the two materials will still attach no matter the orientation of the hook and the loop of the material).

With respect to claim 5, Chen et al. in view of Lin et al. further teaches that the reversed retention hooks (83, now placed on the latching mechanism 50) are movable between an engagement position, coupling the retention hooks with the hook receivers, and a disengagement position, decoupling the retention hooks for the hook receivers, the removable access door being secured to the housing when the retention hooks and hook receivers are engaged (Column 4, Lines 13-33, Lines 61-65), the removable access door being released from the housing when the retention hook and hook receivers are disengaged, the retention hooks moving between the engagement and

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disengagement position via the rotation of the quick release handle (Column 4, Lines 13-33, Lines 61-65. In addition to the access door "snapping" into place as described by Chen et al., the access door could also be attached via rotating the quick release handle of Lin et al. to cause the latching mechanism to translate, aligning the access door hook receivers with the hooks of the latching mechanism, and rotating the quick release handle of Lin et al. to cause the latching mechanism to again translate to the locked position).

With respect to claim 28, Chen et al. in view of Lin et al. further teaches that the retention hooks are positioned on a slider bar (Reversal of parts of claim 4 places the hooks on the slider bar) that slides relative to the housing, and wherein the sliding action of the slider bar is provided by the rotation of the quick release handle (10 of Lin et al. where instead of using the quick release handle (70) of Chen et al. to release the locking mechanism, the handle of Lin et al. is rotated to cause the translational movement of the locking mechanism (50) of Chen et al.).

With respect to claim 29, Chen et al. in view of Lin et al. further teaches a mechanism (45) for transforming the rotary motion of the quick release handle (10) into linear motion of the slider bar (I.E. The tongue (45) of Lin et al. could interact with the locking hole (68) of the locking mechanism of Chen et al. to cause a translational motion of the locking mechanism).

With respect to claim 32, Chen et al. further teaches that the retention hooks are positioned within the access opening (As illustrated in Fig 4), and wherein the hook receivers are positioned on an inner surface of the access door (The hook receivers

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would be positioned on an inner surface of the access door to operate as illustrated in Fig 4).

With respect to claim 35, Chen et al. teaches a computer, comprising: a housing (10) having an access opening (Opposite 18); a removable access door (80) for covering the access opening, the removable access door not having any movable parts thereon; a latching system (50, 83) including a housing side locking feature (50) and a door side locking feature (83) that when engaged secure the removable access door to the housing and that when disengaged allow the release of the removable access door from the housing (Column 4 Lines 13-33, Lines 61-65); and a quick release handle positioned at the housing (70). Chen et al. fails to teach that the quick release handle is configured to facilitate the engagement and disengagement of the locking features via a pivoting action, the quick release handle pivoting between an open position where the locking features are forced into disengagement thereby releasing the access door from the housing, and a closed position where the locking features are forced into lockable engagement thereby securing the access door to the housing. Lin et al. teaches a quick release handle which pivots to release a cover from a base. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Lin et al. with that of Chen et al. to provide an alternate equivalent means of operating the latching mechanism of Chen et al. (I.E. the latch of Lin et al. could replace the quick release handle of Chen et al. and provide the same function of moving the latching mechanism as disclosed by Chen et al. (Which entails the same locking steps as set forth in claim 35). Also see Lin et al: Column 1, Lines 50-52).

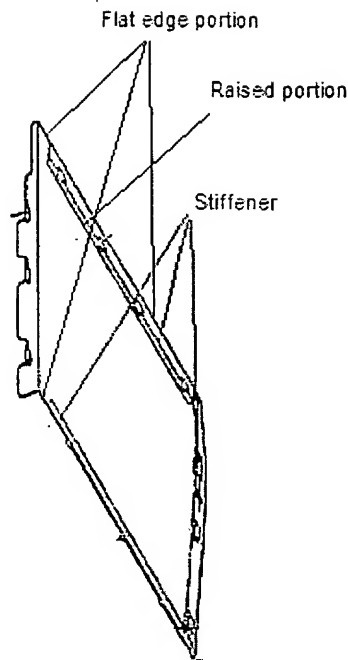


Fig 1

With respect to claim 45, Chen et al. further teaches that the removable access door (80) includes interior and exterior surfaces, the interior surface having a flat edge portion and a raised portion inside the flat edge portion (As illustrated in present office action Fig 1 above).

With respect to claim 47, Chen et al. further teaches that the removable access door (80) comprises a planar panel with inner and outer surfaces that are flat from edge to edge of the planar panel (As illustrated in POA Fig 1 above, the inner and outer surfaces are flat from edge to edge), and a stiffening member attached to the inner surface of the planar panel (The stiffener is folded over from the edge of the panel), the placement of the stiffening member forming the flat edge portion and raised portion of the removable access door (As illustrated in POA Fig 1 above).

6. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (hereafter referred to as Chen 447) in view of Lin et al. and further in view of Chen (US 6,917,518 hereafter referred to as Chen 518).

With respect to claim 30, Chen 447 in view of Lin et al. teaches the limitations of claim 5 above, but fails to teach that the hook receivers (On the access door of Chen 447)) include a ramp that causes the access door to move towards the housing as the retention hooks are moved into the hook receivers, and that causes the access door to move away from the housing as the retention hooks are moved out of the hook receivers. Chen 518 teaches the conventionality of having ramps on hook receivers to facilitate the engagement and disengagement of two members (See Figs 5, 6 and 7 near 26). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Chen 518 with the teachings of Chen 447 and Lin et al. to provide easy assembly and disassembly of a computer enclosure (Chen 518, Column 1, Lines 48-51).

7. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. in view of Lin et al. and further in view of Gan (US 6,392,874).

With respect to claim 48, Chen et al. in view of Lin et al. teaches the limitations of claim 1 above and Chen et al. further teaches that the housing includes locator holes (42) and the access door (80) further includes alignment pins (82) to provide fine positioning of the access door to the housing, but is silent as to the retention lip and the retention lip receiving member, the locator holes of the housing, and the alignment pins

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of the access door. Gan teaches an access door (30) with a retention lip (40) and a corresponding receiving portion (40) on a computer housing (10) to coarsely position the access door relative to the housing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gan with that of Chen et al. and Lin et al. to provide a casing with easily detachable side panels (Column 1, Lines 36-38).

8. Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. in view of Lin et al. and further in view of Ahn (US 2003/0076652)).

With respect to claim 56, Chen et al. in view of Lin et al. teaches the limitations of claim 35 above, and Chen et al. further teaches that the removable access door (80) includes a planar panel with flat surfaces extending end to end (See POA Fig 1 above) but both Chen et al. and Lin et al. are silent as to the material from which the planar panel and housing are formed. Ahn teaches the conventionality of making both a cover and a housing of aluminum (Paragraphs 53, and 60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ahn with that of Chen et al. and Lin et al. to provide an easily manufacture-able chassis.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 31, 33-34, 36-39, 46, 49-55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claims 34, 46, 49-55, see the reasons for indicating allowable subject matter in the office action dated 5/30/2006.

10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter (With respect to claims 31, 33, 36-39):

With respect to claim 31, the allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in dependent claim 31 and at least in part because claim 31 recites "the hook receivers are slots built into the access door".

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claims 1, 4, 5, and 31 are believed to render said claim 31 patentable over the art of record.

With respect to claim 33, the allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in dependent claim 33 and at least in part because claim 33 recites "wherein the quick release handle is seated inside a pocket in the housing when the access door is mounted to the housing".

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claims 1 and 33 are believed to render said claim 33 and any claims dependent therefrom (Claim 34) patentable over the art of record.

With respect to claim 36, the allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in dependent claim 36 and at least in part because claim 36 recites "a plurality of interior slots that are built into the inner surface of the access door".

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claims 35 and 36 are believed to render said claim 36 and any claims dependent therefrom (Claims 37-39) patentable over the art of record.

11. Claims 40, and 44 are allowed.

See the reasons for allowance in the office action dated 5/30/2006.

Response to Arguments

12. Upon further consideration, Applicant's arguments, see page 14, filed 9/28/2006, with respect to claims 31 and 36 (where claim 31 has the same limitation argued in claim 36) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of said claims has been withdrawn.

13. Applicant's arguments filed 7/27/06 to claims 1, 29, 32, 35, 38, and 45-47 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the Applicants' remarks to claims 1 and 35 that, "there simply is no motivation to use Lin's pivoting handle", the Examiner respectfully disagrees. As noted in the office action dated 5/30/06, one would combine the handle mechanism of Lin with the teachings of Chen et al. to provide, "a latch for readily removing a cover of a piece of electronic equipment from a base thereof" (Lin et al. Column 1, Lines 50-52).

With respect to the Applicants' remarks to claim 1 and 35 that, "Lin teaches away from Chen's application" the Examiner respectfully notes that the problem solving features of Lin (I.E. difficulty in manipulating panels due to high engaging forces of the hooks) is actually motivation for combining Lin's handle with the teachings of Chen et al. since it will, in part, ease the manipulation of the panels and help to overcome the high engaging forces.

With respect to the Applicants' remarks to claim 29 that, "It is not as simple as connecting the tongue of Lin with the locking hole of Chen", the Examiner respectfully requests that the Applicant's provide evidence of such an assertion. Further, the Examiner respectfully submits that the limitation is purely functional and as such the mechanism (45) of Lin et al. only need to be capable of performing the function. The Examiner respectfully submits that the mechanism (45) is clearly capable of performing the function of transforming rotary motion into linear motion.

With respect to the Applicants' remarks to claim 32 that, "The rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn", the Examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in Fig 1, the retention hooks (83) are positioned within the access opening (See Fig 4) and the hook receivers (52) are positioned on an inner surface of the access door (See claim 4 rejection which teaches the reversal of parts).

With respect to the Applicants' remarks to claim 38 that, "The stiffener relied upon by the Examiner, is not a separate piece attached to the inner surface of the door" the Examiner respectfully notes that the claim language of claim 38 is broader than the present argument since the claim does not require that the stiffener be a separate

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piece. With respect to the door being planar, the Examiner respectfully submits that the door of the present invention fails to be planar for at least the reason that it contains alignment pins (62).

With respect to Applicants' remarks to claim 45 that, "Chen" fails to teach, "interior surface of the access door having a flat edge portion and a raised portion inside the flat edge portion" the Examiner respectfully disagrees. As illustrated in the office action Fig 1, the flat edge portion is located along the top and the bottom of the door (I.E. outside) and the raised portion is located inside the top portion (I.E. inside) thereby satisfying the claimed requirements.

With respect to the Applicants' remarks to claim 46, the Examiner respectfully notes that the Examiner has deemed claim 46 allowable.

With respect to the Applicants' remarks to claim 47 that, "The door is not flat edge to edge" the Examiner respectfully disagrees. As illustrated in Fig 1 below the door is in fact flat from edge to edge (Edge 1 to Edge 2) at for the reason that there is a temporary recess in the raised portion. Additionally the Examiner respectfully asserts that raised elements 83 also form one edge of the door (Edge 1) and the folded piece on the other end of the door is also another edge. Finally the Examiner respectfully asserts that an, "edge to edge" could also be a part of the door which is between the raised elements edge and the flat edge (labeled Edge 2) at the top of the door.

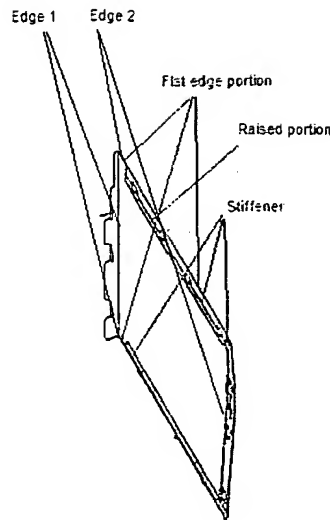


Fig 1

Conclusion

14. This is a continued examination of applicant's earlier Application No. 10/791997. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary M. Pape whose telephone number is 571-272-2201. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (7:00am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached at 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ZMP



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER